



Department of Natural Resources *Snapshot of 2012 Accomplishments*

Managing and protecting natural and cultural resources

- Restored (through the Pheasant Restoration Initiative) grassland habitat on 1,000 acres of public land; on private land, pheasant cooperatives were established in Lenawee, Barry, Shiawassee and Saginaw counties.
- Invested \$3.4 million in Great Lakes Restoration Initiative funds to restore fish and wildlife habitat at Monroe County's Sterling State Park. As a result, the River Raisin Area of Concern (AOC) may soon become only the second AOC in the nation ever to be de-listed by the Environmental Protection Agency.
- Launched the Michigan Waterfowl Legacy to highlight Michigan's unique wetlands and unparalleled managed waterfowl areas, as well as the contributions these resources make to local economies.
- Provided comprehensive outreach and education about epizootic hemorrhagic disease (EHD) in the state's deer population. Using traditional media, town hall meetings and social media tools (including the DNR's first live-streaming event), the department was able to provide facts, calm fears and strengthen customer relationships.
- Maintained dual certification status – and for the first time achieved no corrective action requests – with the Forest Stewardship Council and the Sustainable Forestry Initiative.
- Funded nearly \$750,000 for partnership projects on the Au Sable, Manistee and Muskegon rivers to improve fish habitat, promote better access to fishing and increase our knowledge of the system benefits of water quality improvements.
- Partnered with multiple stakeholders to develop a long-term plan for improved walleye management in Lake Michigan's Little Bay de Noc, an area of high fishing interest and economic importance.
- Provided suppression on 496 fires, which burned 23,815 acres.
- Collaborated to remove Brown Bridge Dam, the first of three dams to be removed on the Boardman River in Grand Traverse County. Removal (completed December 2012) led to a net gain of 21.6 acres of restored wetland and the recovery of 12,000+ linear feet of river – meaning enhanced recreation and economic opportunities in the watershed.



- Worked with constituents, government agencies and Michigan State University to develop public processes and simulation prediction models to establish management policies for Chinook salmon in Lake Michigan and walleye in Lake Erie.
- Completed statewide sturgeon, muskellunge and northern pike management plans.
- Successfully reared Atlantic salmon at Platte River State Fish Hatchery and worked closely with fishing organizations to develop a stocking strategy for Atlantic salmon in Lake Huron.
- Completed three draft Regional State Forest Management Plans and initiated the public review process to ensure that the nearly 4 million acres of state forest land are sustainably managed for present and future needs.
- Used aerial surveys covering nearly 17.5 million acres of forest land to conduct ground detection and evaluation surveys in cooperation with Michigan State University and Michigan Technological University. Using that data, monitored activity/impact of exotic forest pests including oak wilt, emerald ash borer and beech bark disease and conducted tree salvage.
- The Michigan Historical Center served more than 80,000 members of school classroom groups – including 37 classes who spent a full week in the Lansing museum – teaching them about Michigan’s cultural and natural resources and fostering the knowledge that leads to protection of these resources.
- Published an Asian carp management plan serving as a model for other states in Great Lakes region, tested Fisheries Division’s rapid response capabilities, and secured funding and resources needed to fight establishment of Asian carp in Michigan waters.
- Presented information on natural resources education opportunities to educators at the Detroit Science Teachers Association conference, the Michigan Science Teachers Association conference and the Michigan Alliance for Environmental and Outdoor Education conference. Also built and strengthened relationships with Mentor Michigan and Trout Unlimited.



Providing world-class recreation opportunities

- Partnered with Pure Michigan to promote the Recreation Passport in Southeast Michigan.
- Increased Pure Michigan Hunt sales – an opportunity for hunters to pursue all of Michigan’s most prized game species in a single season – by nearly 40 percent over 2011. Pure Michigan Hunt also represents a successful and growing partnership with leading Michigan companies and organizations that contribute generously to winners’ prize packages.
- Welcomed 1 million visitors to the Mackinac State Historic Parks (Mackinac Island State Park, Michilimackinac State Park, Mill Creek State Park).

- Hosted 340,241 visitors at Fort Mackinac, Colonial Michilimackinac, Old Mackinac Point Lighthouse, Historic Mill Creek Discovery Park and Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum) – an increase of 2.6 percent over 2011.
- Created numerous opportunities for anglers, collectively driving 138,185 miles on 1,073 site visits to stock 19.6 million – or 734,131 pounds of – fish in Michigan waters. This year, more than 1.1 million people bought Michigan fishing licenses.
- Hosted 34,178 students at the Mackinac State Historic Parks historic sites.
- Added more than 17,032 acres and 153 properties to the Hunting Access Program, broadening public hunting access and opportunities in the state – especially in southern Michigan close to major urban centers.
- Established two new state parks (putting the total at more than 100):
 - Rockport State Park near Alpena will, in part because of its active friends group, help attract additional tourism to Northeast Michigan.
 - The Upper Peninsula’s Menominee River Recreation Area is our first-ever, co-managed state park. Partnering with the Wisconsin DNR will showcase the best section of whitewater rapids in the Midwest, drawing more tourists to the area.
- Exceeded the “1 million camp nights” milestone in state parks in 2012, reaching a level of camping interest not seen since 2005. Camping was up nearly 10 percent over 2011 levels, providing a positive tourism ripple effect for local economies.
- Successfully combined the camping and trails recreation programs of the DNR’s Forest Resources and Parks and Recreation divisions.
- Introduced more than 15,000 residents to the fun and fitness of the Recreation 101 program, which offers free, expert instruction on a variety of outdoor pursuits and hobbies. Recreation 101 earned national recognition – the President’s Award – from the National Association of State Park Directors.
- Opened commemorative exhibit *The Art of Hospitality: Mackinac’s Grand Hotel* at the Richard and Jane Manoogian Mackinac Art Museum, as well as a new exhibit at Fort Mackinac’s Quartermaster’s Storehouse (replacing a 45-year old installation).
- Ranked #1 state in the nation by the Rails to Trails Conservancy for most rail-trail miles.
- Broke ground on the \$1 million reconstruction of the 1750s South Southwest Rowhouse at Colonial Michilimackinac.



Contributing to Michigan's economy

- Offered \$2.35 million through the Dam Management Grant Program to manage dam removal, repair and major maintenance projects that will enhance aquatic resources and fishing opportunities along with reducing infrastructure costs and improving public safety in Michigan.
- Offered leasing rights on 230,000 acres at two oil and gas lease auctions, as well as leasing for metallic, nonmetallic and underground natural gas storage.
- Prepared 56,609 acres of timber on state forest which will be sold and harvested.
- Generated \$32.9 million in revenue from the harvest of timber on state forest land. The harvesting occurred on roughly 45,000 acres and produced about 700,000 cords of wood.
- Recommended, through the Michigan Natural Resources Trust Fund, \$23.5 million in funding for 76 outdoor recreation development and acquisition projects.
- Put up 16 timber sales totaling 9,600 acres to salvage the wood burned during the Duck Lake Fire that covered 21,069 acres in the Upper Peninsula's Luce County.
- The Archives of Michigan launched a wholesale product line (based on its collections) that was carried in Schuler Book Stores, as well as Michigan Historical Museum stores.
- Developed (through a DNR/MEDC partnership) the Summer Youth Initiative program (SB 871), employing nearly 800 at-risk youth through 13 NGO agencies in Flint, Saginaw, Pontiac and Detroit and providing inner-city youth with job skills training and outdoor recreation experiences.



Serving customers better

- Negotiated a contract with a new state park campsite/harbor slip reservation vendor, which will locate its U.S. headquarters, call center and operations data center in Michigan – resulting in better service to customers and more high-tech job opportunities for residents.
- Implemented a new digital communications tool (GovDelivery) to help tell the department's stories and better communicate with current and cross-over customers. To date, more than 307,000 individual subscribers are regularly hearing about DNR programs, services and opportunities.
- Responding to a Library of Michigan decision that it could no longer support its genealogical collection, the Archives of Michigan remodeled its space to accommodate 40,000 volumes used by the genealogy community and moved the collection. Staff adjusted its work hours – adding public Saturday hours in January 2013 – to better serve researchers. Seventy researchers used the archives the first open Saturday.

- The Archives of Michigan continued to enhance its digital platform – www.seekingmichigan.org – providing a more inviting starting point for family history researchers to explore the Archives’ many resources. In 2012, the Seeking Michigan site welcomed nearly 350,000 unique visitors and had more than 5.7 million page views.
- Provided Mackinac State Historic Parks history and natural science education outreach programs to 7,000+ students in classroom visits across the state. MSHP staff has engaged nearly 200,000 Michigan students since the program began in 1989.
- Completed the \$4.5 million rehabilitation of the Mackinac Island Airport, providing increased safety and new energy-saving lighting systems.
- Continued to enhance the DNR website (which annually receives some 10 million hits) and social media outreach. The DNR has built a strong conversational community on Facebook (19,300+ fans) and Twitter (13,700+ followers of the state and U.P. feeds combined).
- Launched the Mentored Youth Hunting program to help introduce kids under the age of 10 to hunting and fishing in Michigan. In 2012, 10,383 Mentored Youth Hunting licenses were purchased.



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